

Utilities Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2009 @ 7:00 PM

ITEM #1

Ordered that representatives from Western Mass Electric appear before the Utilities Committee to discuss electromagnetic fields related to their transmission upgrade project.

ITEM #2

Changes filed with the state regarding the upgrade project by Western Mass Electric.

ITEM #3

Minutes – November 13, 2008



CHICOPEE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
UTILITIES COMMITTEE

ACCEPTED 2/24/09

MEMBERS

Fred Krampits, Chairman
George McLellan, Vice-Chairman
George Moreau
Jean Croteau, Jr.
Ronald Belair

MINUTES
January 13, 2009

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Aldermanic Chambers, Fourth Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Members Present

Krampits, McLellan, Moreau, Croteau, Belair

Also Present

Alderman Zygarowski, Alderman Vieau, Alderman Tillotson, Alderman Brunetti, Dan Garvey (Associate City Solicitor), Jeff Cady (General Manager CEL), H. Edgar Alejandro (Senior Analyst of Western Mass. Electric), Jeffery M. Towle (Project Manager –Transmission of Northeast Utilities System), Jerry Fan (Project Manager of Burns & McDonnell), Robert E. Carberry (Manager Transmission Siting of Northeast Utilities)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Motion made to recess at 7:01PM. Motion passed

Motion made to return from recess at 7:25PM. Motion passed

Motion made to recess at 7:30PM. Motion passed

Motion made to return from recess at 7:32PM. Motion passed

ITEM #1

ORDERED THAT representatives from Western Mass Electric appear before the Utilities Committee to discuss electromagnetic fields related to their transmission upgrade project

(Attached please find handouts)

Alderman McLellan asked what affects EMF has on residents and how far apart will the poles be from one another (width wise)

Robert Carberry stated there will be no affects on residents and the poles will be 500ft apart from each other and 65ft from the center.

Public Input:

Robert Allen of 212 Summit Avenue stated in some places such as New Jersey and New York, they have underground voltage and asked why we couldn't do something like that here, in Chicopee.

Robert Carberry stated it is not available at 345volts.

Robert Allen asked if they did any research at all into it

Robert Carberry stated they have and it is still developing and again, is not available for this particular project.

Don Chapdelaine of Schoolhouse Road asked what the placement of the new towers will be compared to the old ones

Robert Carberry stated the existing poles will be brought down after the new ones are put up so they will be relatively close but not exactly where the old ones will stand for the fact that they need to keep the electricity flowing at all times.

Don Chapdelaine asked if there were any way to move the poles closer to the highway rather then the residential neighborhood.

Robert Carberry stated they can only put them so close to the highway and it all depends on how much the lines will sway in the wind

Alderman McLellan asked is the 345 in going in our substation

Robert Carberry answered it does not

Alderman Moreau asked what the cost for Chicopee will be

Jeff Cady stated the average is about 5.4 million and their estimate right now is approximately 9-10million

Alderman Moreau stated he is worried about rates going up because people are already hurting now

Alderman Belair stated essentially either way, this will go forward whether they vote for it favorably or against it unfavorably

Jeffrey Towle stated it is significant tax revenue but does not want to see that be this is a very necessary project that must get done

Alderman Moreau stated it will benefit the city but not individuals.

Jeffery Towle stated if this does move forward, this will not start until 2010 so they are still open for any questions that may come up

Motion made to place report on file.
Motion Passed. Committee Vote: 5-0 favorable

ITEM #2

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Motion made by Alderman Belair to accept.
Motion Passed. Committee Vote: 5-0 Favorable

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM